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Hayfield resident wins poster session award at University of Maine Graduate Research Exposition

Ms. Valerie Carney, a cartographer with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center's Topographic Engineering Center in Alexandria, Va., recently won an award in the Third Annual Graduate Research Exposition sponsored by the University of Maine. Ms. Carney's poster session submission in the Engineering Category of the competition was judged the best for its academic content. Her poster "Improving Uncertainty Management Through Readily Accessible Metadata" describes the research and development of an integrated environment, where links or relationships between spatial data and their quality-related metadata (descriptions of data sets) will be established.

"The linking of spatial data and metadata will allow users to easily access data quality information, in addition to having the capability to automatically update metadata," Ms. Carney explained. "The results of this work will provide substantial improvements to existing GIS technology, giving spatial data users immediate access to up-to-date metadata."

Three years ago, the university's Association of Graduate Students began the exposition as a vehicle for students to showcase their research efforts. This year, 101 students presented posters in the five disciplinary categories: Biological Sciences, Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, Physics and Chemistry, Physical Sciences and Engineering. There are two sub-categories within each category, one for academic content and one for artistic presentation. The Engineering Category includes Biological, Chemical, Civil and Environmental, Electrical and Computer, Mechanical, School of Engineering Technology, and Spatial Information Science and Engineering.

Currently, Ms. Carney is pursuing a Ph.D. at the university's Department of Spatial Information Science and Engineering.